Serial No.: 09/275,766

In the Claims

Please add new claim 19:

19. A method for retrieving information from a database based on an input of a proper name, comprising the steps of:

identifying apparent surnames and given names that are part of the proper name; determining the cultural origin or ethnicity of the inputted proper name;

selecting a search strategy based on the determined cultural origin or ethnicity of the proper name;

selecting a set of names that are stored in the database, wherein the selection is based on a culture-relevant key-indexing strategy; and

using an algorithm tailored according to the selected search strategy to evaluate which of the selected names match the proper name.